



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Sentenced For Murdering Friend at Silver Lake Construction Site

A 21-year-old man was sentenced today to 16 years to life in state prison for killing a friend at a construction site last year, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Christian Valdez was found guilty by a jury last month of one count of second-degree murder.

Valdez and Juan Sanchez, 19, were longtime friends and worked together at a construction site on the 4200 block of Burns Avenue in Silver Lake. Valdez showed up to work drunk last May and was ordered to go home. He then borrowed the victim's car and crashed into a parked vehicle.

Deputy District Attorney Saeed Teymouri, who prosecuted the case, said Sanchez hoped that Valdez would pay for the damage to the vehicle. On May 22, Valdez returned to work and bludgeoned Sanchez to death with a sledgehammer and a framing hammer, the prosecutor said.

Valdez fled the scene but was arrested shortly thereafter.

Case BA425024 was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.